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Lignite Mines, Neyveli

* 1045 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred on the Lignite Mines, Neyveli, South Arcot, from 25th March to 31st December 1954?

8-50 a.m. THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" A sum of Rs. 39,92,484-14-6 was spent on the Lignite Project, Neyveli, from March 1954 to 31st December 1954."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" It is seen from the answer that nearly 40 lakhs of rupees was spent in about nine months. May I know the total amount spent prior to this period? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The amount spent before that period was Rs. 34,23,097."

SRI D. KRISHNAMURTHY GOUNDER :—" இந்தத் தொகையில் மத்திய அரசாங்கம் எவ்வளவு கொடுத்தார்கள் என்பதை கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொல்ல முடியுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The entire amount was spent by the Government of Madras."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Was this huge amount spent only on experimental processes or was any income derived from it? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" This amount was spent purely on experimental purposes."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" சமீபத்தில் இந்தப் பழுப்பு நிலக்கரிச் சுரங்கத்தின் நிர்வாகத்தை மத்திய அரசாங்கத்தினிடம் ஒப்படைத்ததாகத் தெரிகிறது. நமது மாகாண சர்காரரின் நிதி நிலைமையையும், இந்தத் திட்டத்தினுல் கிடைக்கும் லாபத்தையும் கருதி இந்த நிர்வாகத்தை நமது சர்க்காரே மீண்டும் எடுத்துக்கொள்வதைப்பற்றி யோசிப்பார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Government of India have undertaken the financial responsibility for continuing the investigation only from the 1st January of this year and I do not think the hon. Member should object to that."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" When only a sum of a little over 34 lakhs of rupees was spent over a period of five or six years, what was the reason for the heavy expenditure of about 40 lakhs of rupees within a period of about nine months? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The intense investigation of the pilot scheme was started last year and that is why an expenditure of over 39 lakhs of rupees was incurred last year."

SRI P. SELVARAJ :—" Since the lignite project has been transferred to the Central Government, do the Government propose to recover from them the money already spent by the State Government? "

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already stated that the further investigation of this project would be undertaken by the Government of India from 1st January of this year. There is no question of recovering the expenditure already incurred by the State. If the investigation is completed and the project is found successful, the expenditure of 75 lakhs is nothing compared with the benefits that this State will derive as a result of the industrial development that will follow."

Distribution of clothes in cyclone-affected areas in Tanjore.

* 1046 *Q.*—SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the quantity of clothes distributed at Government cost to the people who were affected by the Tanjore cyclone during the year 1953;

(*b*) the quantity of clothes received by the Government from any organization other than Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; and

(*c*) whether they were distributed?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (*a*) No clothes were purchased at Government cost for distribution to the people affected by the cyclone in Tanjore district. But clothes noted below were purchased from the Weavers' Co-operative Societies for a sum of Rs. 80,100 from the amount allotted from the State Cyclone Relief Fund :—

Dhoties—7,000.

Sarees—8,333.

Towels—2,284.

" (*b*) The quantity is as given below :—

Dhoties (2 yards)—10,000.

Sarees (7-8 yards)—13,250.

Blankets, bed-sheets, etc.—1,900.

Shirts, banians, etc.—8,300.

Others—5,000.

" (*c*) Yes. The entire quantity has been distributed."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" What are the names of the organizations other than the Dravida Munnetra Khazhagam which have contributed to the purchase of these clothes? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" So many organizations like the Coimbatore Mill Owners' Association and the Madras Piecegoods Merchants' Association and also other social organizations have contributed."